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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/614,288	07/12/2000	Edwin S. Thompson	C4-860	2383

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IP LEGAL DEPARTMENT  
TYCO FIRE & SECURITY SERVICES  
ONE TOWN CENTER ROAD  
BOCA RATON, FL 33486

EXAMINER

HSIA, SHERRIE Y

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2614

DATE MAILED: 07/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/614,288

Applicant(s)

THOMPSON ET AL.

Examiner

Sherrie Hsia

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 December 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

20-24,30-50

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 and 20-50 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 7-18 and 20-50 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 July 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2, 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Applicant's election of Figs. 2 and 3, claims 1-6 in the reply filed on 12/22/03 is acknowledged. Because applicant did not distinctly and specifically point out the supposed errors in the restriction requirement, the election has been treated as an election without traverse (MPEP § 818.03(a)).
2. Claims 7-18 and ~~20-50~~ are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to nonelected species, there being no allowable generic or linking claim.

### ***Drawings***

3. The drawings are objected to because in Figs. 1-10, all blocks should be functionally labelled. Corrected drawing sheets are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the

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changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Thompson (5990981).

As to claim 1, Thompson discloses the claimed features, the claimed array of individual video signal connector contacts is met by the beads 30' (Fig. 5), the claimed first connector is met by the male connectors 104 (Fig. 5, column 7 lines 38-40), the claimed conductors is met by the wires between the beads 30 and the midplane structure 52 (Fig. 5), the claimed second connector is met by the female connectors 102 (Fig. 5) and the claimed signal processing unit is met by the module boards 32 (Fig. 5) and the first and second connectors being aligned along the y-axis (Fig. 5) (column 7 line 15-column 8 line 4).

As to claim 2, the claimed at least some portion of each of the conductors is aligned with the first connector and the second connector is disclosed by Thompson (Fig. 5).

As to claims 3 and 4, the claimed signal processing unit is aligned with the first connector and the second connector is disclosed by Thompson (Fig. 5).

As to claim 5, Thompson discloses the claimed features, the claimed array of individual video signal connector contacts is met by the beads 30' (Fig. 5), the claimed first connector is met by the male connectors 104 (Fig. 5, column 7 lines 38-40), the claimed conductors is met by the wires between the beads 30 and the midplane structure 52 (Fig. 5), the claimed second connector is met by the female connectors 102 (Fig. 5) and the claimed signal processing unit is met by the module boards 32 (Fig. 5) and the video signal contacts of a row of the array, the first connector, the second connector and the signal processing unit being disposed in linewise succession (Fig. 5) (column 7 line 15-column 8 line 4).

As to claim 6, Thompson discloses the claimed features, the claimed array of individual video signal connector contacts is met by the beads 30' (Fig. 5), the claimed first connector is met by the male connectors 104 (Fig. 5, column 7 lines 38-40), the claimed conductors is met by the wires between the beads 30 and the midplane structure 52 (Fig. 5), the claimed second connector is met by the female connectors 102 (Fig. 5) and the claimed signal processing unit is met by the module boards 32 (Fig. 5) and the video signal contacts of a column of the array, the first connector, the second connector and the signal processing unit being disposed in linewise succession (Fig. 5) (column 7 line 15-column 8 line 4).

### *Conclusion*

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Stewart (4276562) discloses a TV switching system.

McGahan (4037250) shows a video switcher having a central switching station.

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McGlew (4480890) shows a connector device.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sherrie Hsia whose telephone number is (703) 305-4738.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Miller can be reached on (703) 305-4795.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

**Any response to this action should be mailed to:**


Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**Or faxed to:**

**(703) 872-9306 (for Technology Center 2600 only)**

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA., Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 308-HELP.

  
Sherrie Hsia  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2614

SH  
July 11, 2004